**Park Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 29, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

**Kirkwood Community Center Room 202**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The meeting was called order at 7:04 p.m. with President Ellen Edman, Steve Ostrowski, Nate Wurtz, Jordan Wienke, Kathy Paulsen, Christopher Molitor (absent), Kevin Miller, Lauren Nieman, Becky Jones and Staff Liaison Curt Carron and Pete Laufersweiler in attendance.

1. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Allen Hopefl, 12 Orchard Way, reviewed the proposal in the packet from Planning Design Studio and feels that the proposed number of people to be surveyed is too low. He thinks 2,000 – 3,000 surveys should go out and that there should be a subcommittee established for the survey.

Rich Thoma, 320 Frieda Ave., a member of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and will answer any questions during the meeting.

Gwen Wahlmann, agrees with Allen about the survey process. She hopes that the Trail Committee will continue with trail system and wayfinding in Kirkwood and Emmenegger Park. Likes the use of trail blazes to mark trails.

1. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The Park Board recognized Allen Hopefl for his volunteer efforts and invasive honeysuckle removal. Allen was presented with a plaque and shirt to commemorate his volunteer efforts.

1. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion made by Lauren Nieman to approve the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Becky Jones. Motion approved unanimously.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Finance Committee – Steve Ostrowski discussed the upcoming budget process, there will be a public hearing at the February 26th meeting and voting will happen at the March 25th meeting.
2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   1. Strategic Goals Update – None
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Webster Groves Nature Study Society Sign Proposal – WGNSS is willing to donate $1600.00 towards sign but the Park Board would like a different type of sign to match similar signs throughout the parks. This sign would cost about $2000.00 more.

Motion by Lauren Nieman to suspend Roberts rules of order to allow a representative of WGNSS to speak. Seconded by Kevin Miller. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion by Nate Wurtz to approve staff to move forward with getting bids on the sign. Seconded by Jordan Wienke. Motion approved unanimously.

* 1. Master Plan – Kyle discussed the proposal from Planning Design Studio that was recommended by the selection committee. The Park Board asked questions about the proposal.

A motion made by Kathy Paulsen to enter into a contract with Planning Design Studio for a not to exceed amount of $124,600.00 from account # 201-09-100-101-000-620090, Engineering Fees. Seconded by Nate Wurtz. Motion approved unanimously.

1. **SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT**
   1. Pete Laufersweiler discussed the Superintendent of Parks report and introduced Sebastian Kaiser, the new Parks Horticulturist.
2. **DIRECTORS REPORT**
   1. Community Center Renovation – Kyle gave an update.
   2. Aquatic Center – Several pool leaks have been identified.
3. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Kathy Paulsen asked Kyle to clarify upcoming meeting dates. February 26 and March 25 are the next two meeting dates.

1. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.